

WILLMAR CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BUILDING
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA

June 2, 1999
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Willmar City Council was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Lester Heitke. Members present on a roll call were Mayor Heitke, Council Members Verna Kelly, Denis Anderson, Ron Christianson, Bruce DeBlieck, Douglas Reese, Nancy Houlahan, Jim Dokken, and Rick Fagerlie; Present 9, Absent 0.

Also present were City Administrator Michael Schmit, City Attorney Richard Ronning, Park and Leisure Services Director Dale Johnson, Public Safety Director Dan Strootman, Public Works Director Mel Odens, Finance Director Steven Okins, Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson, and Administrative Assistant Audrey Peterson.

Addition to the Agenda included Willmar Fest activities/requests, Municipal Utilities Commission appointment, and Mayoral Proclamation.

Council Member Kelly requested the Planning Commission Minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Kelly offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda, which included the following: City Council Minutes of May 19, Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of May 24, and Aquatic Facility Committee Minutes of May 13, 1999. Council Member DeBlieck seconded the motion, which carried.

Council Member Kelly requested clarification of the absence of the Aquatic Center Project in the departmental proposal for capital projects, and Council Member Reese requested clarification on the item regarding a campground. Following discussion, the Planning Commission Minutes of May 26, 1999, were accepted as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Christianson, and carried.

Mayor Heitke read a Proclamation declaring the week of June 20 - 27, 1999, as "Amateur Radio Week," and thanked the licensed amateur radio operators for their public assistance by providing emergency radio communications.

At 7:12 p.m. Mayor Heitke opened a hearing on an Ordinance Prohibiting Loitering in the City of Willmar. City Administrator Schmit presented details of the Ordinance as proposed by the business community. Several citizens appeared before the Mayor and Council in opposition or support of the ordinance. Upon hearing all those who wished to be heard, Mayor Heitke closed the hearing at 7:26 p.m.

Following considerable discussion, Council Member Kelly offered a motion to adopt, assign a number, and order final publication of the Ordinance Prohibiting Loitering in the City of Willmar. Council Member DeBlieck seconded the motion which resulted in a tie vote, 4 Ayes, 4 Noes - Council Member Christianson, Houlahan, Dokken, and Fagerlie voted "No." Falling short of the required 5 affirmative votes, the motion failed.

City Administrator Schmit presented details to the Mayor and Council regarding the Aquatic Center Task Force Review Team's evaluation of architects and engineering firms for completion of a feasibility study. Parks and Leisure Services Director Johnson explained the evaluation process. Mayor Heitke called on Gary McDowell, Task Force Chair, who informed the Council that the Review Team evaluated seven architects and engineering firms and interviewed six. The Aquatic Center Task Force was recommending to the Council that the City enter in to an agreement with Ankeny Kell Architects, PA, from St. Paul, Minnesota, for

completion of a feasibility study.

Resolution No. 1 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Kelly, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call of Ayes 6, Noes 2 - Council Member Christianson and Dokken voted "No."

RESOLUTION NO. 1

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar as follows:

1. The City of Willmar is desirous of using the architect of Ankeny Kell Architects, PA, for a feasibility study and design for an aquatic facility at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 plus reimbursable expenses not to exceed \$3,000.
2. The Mayor and City Administrator are authorized to execute this agreement on behalf of the City of Willmar.

Dated this 2nd day of June, 1999.

/s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

/s/ Michael Schmit
Attest: CITY ADMINISTRATOR

The Labor Relations Committee Report of May 25, 1999, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Christianson. There were three items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 The Committee continued its discussion of the Police Chief classification, application qualifications, and hiring procedures. It was the consensus of the Committee to defer this matter to a later date in order to give the City Administrator time to analyze and develop recommendations regarding qualifications and hiring from within the Police Department organization. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 2 The Committee reviewed a proposed position classification for the position of Fire Chief/Fire Marshal. The Committee was recommending to the Council to adopt the position classification including revisions to the minimum qualifications section providing for equivalent work experience with special training and education as an acceptable alternative to a four-year degree in Fire Science, Public Administration or closely related field. Council Member Christianson moved to approve the recommendation of the Labor Relations Committee with Council Member Dokken seconding the motion, which carried.

Council Member Kelly offered an amendment to the motion changing the Fire Chief/Marshal position classification, minimum qualifications to read as follows: Prefer Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science, Public Administration or closely related field. Equivalent work experience with special training and education will be considered. Council Member Reese seconded the motion, which carried. The original motion, as amended, then carried.

Item No. 3 The Committee postponed discussion of using an executive search firm to fill the Police and Fire Chief positions pending the outcome of the City Administrator's analysis of Police Department promotion opportunities. This matter was for information only.

The Labor Relations Committee Report of May 26, 1999, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Anderson, and carried.

Public Works Director Odens informed the Mayor and Council that bids were received on March 22, 1999, for Project No. 9901 - 1999 Street and Other Improvements. Following discussion, Resolution No. 2 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Kelly, read by Mayor Heitke, and

approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar, a municipal corporation of the State of Minnesota, that the bid of Duininck Brothers Inc. of Prinsburg, Minnesota, for Project NO. 9901 - 1999 Street and Other Improvements is accepted, and be it further resolved that the Mayor and City Administrator of the City of Willmar are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the bidder of the terms and consideration of the contract in the amount of \$1,184,595.95.

Dated this 2nd day of June, 1999.

/s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

/s/ Michael Schmit
Attest: CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Heitke informed the Council that Dave Taffe has resigned from the Municipal Utilities Commission, and he was recommending Gary Geiger be appointed to the Commission. Council Member Kelly moved to approve the appointment of Gary Geiger to the MUC with Council Member Reese seconding the motion, which carried.

Public Works Director Odens informed the Mayor and Council of several activities in conjunction with Willmar Fest activities. Main Street Willmar is requesting that certain streets and parking lots in the Downtown be closed to accommodate the Block Party to be held on June 23, 1999. Council Member Reese moved to approve the request with Council Member Houlahan seconding the motion, which carried.

The Fire Department is requesting that the Bethel Church parking lot be used for a waterball tournament on June 23, 1999. Council Member Christianson moved to approve the request with Council Member Reese seconding the motion, which carried.

The last consideration regarding Willmar Fest activities was a request to close certain streets for the annual parade. It was noted the parade route would remain the same as previous years. Council Member Christianson moved to approve the closing of streets for the parade route. Council Member Reese seconded the motion, which carried.

At this time Mayor Heitke commented on recent shootings in the City. The Mayor assured the public that the matter is being investigated, and the Police Department has identified people involved and legal proceedings will be taking place in the future. The incident was not a random act, but involved a dispute between two families. The Mayor stressed that the streets in Willmar are safe and encouraged the public to contact and cooperate with the Police Department.

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Finance, June 7; Community Development, June 8; and Public Works/Safety, June 15, 1999.

Council Members Reese, DeBlieck and Dokken requested to be excused from the June 23, 1999, Council meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Reese, and carried.

Attest:

MAYOR

ACTING SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL